



## **STUDY CIRCLE**

FOUNDED  
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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**BULLETIN No.93 JUNE 1977**

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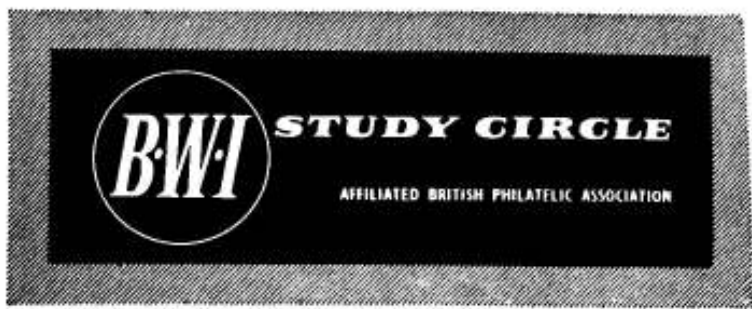
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<i>Hon. Auditor :</i>	<b>A. J. BRANSTON, F.R.P.S.L.</b>

## **OBJECTS**

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the **British West Indies** and in addition **BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS.**
2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. To loan books from Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear post both ways. List supplied on application.
4. To publicise 'wants'.
5. To furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

is WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be **advanced** or **new** collectors. The ANNUAL subscription is **£2.50** or the equivalent in local currency, due **1st January**. If remitting in currency **please add 40c to cover collection charges**. An International Money Order or Draft drawn on London is acceptable. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

### **PROGRAMME 1977-78**

1977

Sat., Nov. 5th.

B.W.I.S.C. and Roses Caribbean  
P.S. Joint Convention.

Wed., Dec. 7th 6 p.m.

Nine pages from members.

1978

Thurs., Jan. 5th, 6 p.m.

Mr. S. Sugarman, Dominica.

Wed., Feb. 8th, 6 p.m.

Mr. M. Sheppard, Barbados.

Thurs., Mar. 9th, 6 p.m.

Nine pages from members.

Sat., Apr. 15th, 3 p.m.

A.G.M. and auction

The Joint Convention on Nov. 5th, 1977 will be held at the  
Lord Leycester Hotel, Jury St., Warwick.

All other meetings will be held at Stanley Gibbons Auction  
Room, Drury House, Russell St., London.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the British West Indies Study Circle held on 16th April, 1977, at 3 p.m. at the Auction Room of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., Drury House, Russell Street, London, W.C.1.

18 members were present together with 2 guests.

The chair was taken by Mr. E.V. Toeg, the President, who extended a warm welcome to all.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. A.J. Branston, B.B. Benwell, J.C. Loach and J.B. Marriott.

The Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting were published in the June 1976 issue of the Circle's Quarterly Bulletin in pages 23 to 27 inclusive. These were taken as read and, with the approval of the meeting, were signed as correct by the Chairman. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **REPORT OF THE HON. SECRETARY**

I report that, at the present time, membership of the Circle stands at 299. This represents a rise of 6 since last year. I feel that this indicates that we are holding our ground and is largely due to the modest size of the annual subscription and the excellent quality of the Bulletin and other services which are offered by the Circle. Although rather fewer meetings were held in the current season they were all unqualified successes. The attendance at meetings was as follows: 2.10.76 19 members and 5 visitors; 11.11.76 10 members; 19.1.77 10 members and 1 visitor; 10.3.77 15 members. The Anniversary meeting was attended by 19 members and 2 visitors.

The 'Expert Opinion' services was used on 3 occasions.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask members to assist me in the preparation of the new 'List of Members'. Members should advise me of changes in their addresses or collecting interests. Members are also invited to indicate if they consider their collections to be 'specialised'. It would help me if members who are willing to display their material to other philatelic societies would let me have details. This would enable

me to meet the requests of societies without falling back on the 'old regulars' who need a rest. Some requests come from distant parts of the country and it is unreasonable to expect London based members to travel too far from home. The knowledge that there is a member who is willing to display in more inaccessible places would assist me, would publicise the Circle and would also improve the hobby.

#### REPORT OF THE HON. TREASURER.

As members will have read in the March Bulletin, my firm are transferring me to take charge of their new Bournemouth branch and as my family and I are in the throes of this move, I cannot be present this year at the A.G.M. and before commencing the report I would like to thank Ian for delivering it in my stead.

Members will have seen the Statement of Accounts for 1976 and one or two main points come to mind. Now that the position regarding Advertising revenue has been regularised a substantial amount is received each quarter from this source. The figure for 1976 of £543.03 includes much of the unpaid outstanding money from 1974/75, which was mentioned at this time last year.

As can be seen, the cost of printing bulletins has decreased under the new system and includes some additional setting costs which are recovered from the advertisers. The Auction continues to provide an excellent source of income for the Circle while providing a useful service to the members. At the time of writing, 51 members have not paid their 1977 subscriptions which means they miss the June bulletin. Please pay on time.

Due to extra work involved in my new position, I regret I have to give up the Treasurership after three years and wish my successor very good wish.

Luncheon profit for the 21st Anniversary Luncheon is actually payments received for magazine articles by members after end of December 1975 and too late for 1975 figures.

#### REPORT OF THE HON. EDITOR.

The changeover to our method of printing the Bulletin has had, over the past year, the desired effect of keeping production costs down, but nevertheless inflation is once again catching up. Whilst we are fortunate in not having at this moment to pay for more paper or printing, we shall have to face an extra charge for photographic plates and for layout work on advertisements. However at this stage we should be able to absorb most of this increase and still maintain the present size and quality of the bulletin.

With the latter part of the last sentence in mind I should perhaps add that your suggestions and comments for ways of improving our publication will always be welcome.

In conclusion I should like, once again, to thank all contributors to the Bulletin, but please do not rest on your laurels for your Editor has an insatiable appetite.

#### REPORT OF THE HON. LIBRARIAN

The past twelve months have been somewhat disruptive due to my move of residence' from Windsor to South Wales and I am grateful to my sister for her agreement in allowing the library to be housed in her home thus permitting its continuous operation whilst I spent some six months house hunting!

In the period since the last Annual General Meeting use of the library has fallen slightly - some twelve loans for 27 different publications having been made to 9

members. The running costs have remained at the same rate as those during 1975-76 the postal costs amounting to £10.60 all of which has been recovered.

During the year some additions have been made. The Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society has donated a copy of "West Indies Civil Censorship Devices in World War II"; Mr. Duggleby has contributed many new items for the St. Vincent scrapbook; Mr. Cole has gifted a four page leaflet which contains information on the numbers of stamps issued for St. Vincent during the period 1861-1881; and Mr. de Vries has added information concerning the introduction of Postal Markings. The Secretary of the British Philatelic Federation Expert Committee has also given to me a quantity of more recent Auction Catalogues (mainly from Robson Lowe, H.R.Harmer and Stanley Gibbon's sales and most containing details of Prices Realised) which, together with catalogues already held now make a sizeable proportion of the volume of paper to be stored, and I think one task which might be useful is the extracting of information for a reference index to be produced - but this would be a long term project if undertaken.

I have purchased on your behalf at trade prices a copy of Marcus Samuel's book on Specimen Stamps; two study papers by the King George VI Study Circle - one on Bermuda and the other on the Leeward Islands; a copy of "The Numeral Cancellations of the British Empire" by the Rev. H.H.Heins; Charles Hocking's "Dictionary of Disasters at Sea during the Age of Steam" a work which also includes references to sailing ships and ships of war lost in action; and, perhaps improperly, "The Dealers Guide to Chemical Restoration of Postage Stamps" - an American publication not intended for sale to the general collecting public.

I mentioned in my report last year that I was hoping to acquire a run of the Philatelist and this has now been concluded. The run covers the years 1951 to 1974 inclusive and I am now slowly extracting information from them for inclusion in the appropriate scrapbooks and it is my intention to compile a complete reference index when this task is completed.

I must confess to some slight disappointment that so few members make use of the Library. Although, selfishly, this means less work for me, it also means that there are few pointers as to how the Library can be improved to make it a more useful part of the Circle's raison d'être. In the Popularity stakes JAMAICA ranks top many lengths ahead of St. Vincent and Trinidad, whilst the other countries of interest can at best be classed as also rans. Although many members probably have publications concerning their own collecting interests, I am sometimes worried that I may miss opportunities of acquiring published works simply because I have no means of knowing if they would be useful to you, and I hope that what I have acquired so far meets with your approval.

#### REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee members are very concerned to make sure that the Study Circle's financial affairs are looked at regularly. As a result of a Meeting held on 2nd October, 1976, the cost of the bulletin and the price of back numbers was considered.

The suggestion of Commander F.W.Collins for reproduction of the long out of print St. Lucia Philatelist was considered but turned down because of the breach of the law of copyright.

It was brought to the notice of the Committee members that our late Founder Philip T. Saunders had left an unfinished manuscript on Dominica which was being studied by Mr. Len Britnor with a view to the work being completed and published.

The Committee after much discussion also approved of the holding jointly with the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society of a Convention in 1977 and the Hon. Secretary and the Chairman of the Committee were appointed to make the necessary arrangements with the representative of the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society.

At the Meeting held on the 16th April, 1977, the Committee approved the appointment of Mr. S.A. Baker as the acting Hon. Treasurer in succession to Mr. Graham Bartlett who had resigned from that office. The Hon. Secretary also reported the arrangements made to date with regard to the Convention to be held at Warwick. He also reported on the Programme of Meetings for 1977/78.

The Hon. Editor reported on the cost of printing the Bulletin and on certain charges to advertisers.

Quite a busy year all in all with another busy year to follow.

#### REPORT OF THE HON. AUDITOR.

It is gratifying to find that the system of accounts as set up by our Founder, the late Philip Saunders, continues to be used so effectively. The books appear to be in excellent order and it is considered that the work of the Hon. Treasurer, Graham Bartlett is very creditable. It is a pity that we are to lose his valuable services. May I strongly recommend that the incoming Hon. Treasurer makes a point of continuing the accounting system now in use during the forthcoming year.

#### JOINT CONVENTION.

Mr. Chard gave further news of arrangements being made for the Convention to be held at Warwick next November and said that full details would be given in a booklet to be issued with the June Bulletin.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

Mr. Toeg reported that Mr. G.C. Bartlett had resigned as Hon. Treasurer and that a meeting of the Committee held earlier in the day, Mr. Stirling Anthony Baker had been provisionally appointed to this post. Mr. Toeg then proposed that Mr. Baker be appointed as Hon. Treasurer. This was seconded by Mr. Chard.

There being no other nominations received Mr. Toeg declared that the other Officers and members of the Committee were re-elected automatically.

The Officers are as follows:

President	Mr. E. V. Toeg
Vice Presidents	Mr. J. B. Marriott, Mr. W.A. Townshend
Hon. Secretary	Mr. I. P. Chard
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. A. S. Baker
Hon. Editor	Mr. M. Sheppard
Hon. Librarian	Mr. S. E. Papworth

The Committee are as follows:

Messrs B. B. Benwell; F. D. FitzGerald; S. Goldblatt; A. H. Latham; J. C. Loach

#### VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING HON. TREASURER.

Mr. Toeg proposed a formal vote of thanks to Mr. Bartlett who he said had acted in that capacity for three years, but who has been obliged to relinquish office owing to the pressure of work following his promotion to a managerial position in his firm. This vote of thanks was heartily endorsed by all those present.



## ELECTION OF HON. AUDITOR.

Mr. A. J. Branston had intimated that he would be willing to continue as Hon. Auditor. He was proposed by Mr. Chard, seconded by Mr. Baker and elected unanimously.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

There being no other business Mr. Chard proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Toeg the president for taking the chair at the meeting and for the encouragement and support which he gave the Circle throughout the year. This vote of thanks was endorsed by everyone present. Mr. William ff D. Hall proposed a vote of thanks to the Officers and Committee of the Circle for the work which they do in running the Circle. This vote of thanks was met with spontaneous approval by all the members.

The meeting closed at 2.45 p.m. and was followed by an Auction Sale.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

Dear Members,

Your Hon. Secretary is at present in the process of preparing for the publication of a new 'List of Members'. In order that this list is fully up to date members are asked to notify the Hon. Secretary of any change of address, change of philatelic interest and description of collection by 30th June, 1977. Members are particularly asked to consider whether their collections might be described as 'specialised'. It is felt that this description applies to the collections of many more members than is shown at present. If members are willing to give displays of their material to other societies perhaps they would let the Hon. Secretary know. In fact few external displays are organised but it is always helpful to know who is willing to display when trying to satisfy the requests of philatelic societies for a 'display'.

*Ian Chard*

## DISPLAY

The meeting at Drury House on Wednesday 19th January, 1977, was attended by ten members and one visitor.

Members were treated to a wonderful display of the Postal History and stamps of Barbados up to 1900 by Mr. Basil Benwell. Beginning with a very fine 18th century map of the island by Bryan Edwards, Mr. Benwell continued with a letter of 1657 carried to London privately. Further pre-adhesive material included the large straight line BARBADOES on a cover dated 6th January 1766; types 1 and 2 of the two line BARBA/DOES mark both of which are the earliest recorded examples, dated 22 Feb 1762 and 2nd Sept 1771 respectively; an entire showing the first dated mark, 1st Sept. 1799 (this mark, sent out from the GPO London, probably did not reach the Island till May or June of that year); the small straight line BARBADOES used on a letter from British Guiana to London (this mark was used mainly as a transit mark between 1801 and 1814). This section of the display continued with some superb examples of the large and small fleuron marks and first types of c.d.s. - the first in Roman capitals and the second in sans serif capitals. One example of the latter had the parish number (6 or 9) included in the datestamp - so far the only recorded copy. Several examples of the Crown Circle datestamp were shown both in red (dated 11 Oct 1854) and provisional use in black in 1893 and 1896. A fine example of the BARBADOS/SHIP LETTER two

line handstamp, the oval ship letter datestamp and an example of Consignees Mail with the directive 'p. Solent and Trent' attracted much attention. This letter was sent at the time when the RMSP Co.'s vessels went between Southampton and St. Thomas, with connecting services operating from the latter place to other ports in the West Indies. The Solent acted as one of these connecting ships, taking the letter from Barbados to St. Thomas, where it was transferred to the Trent for the journey to England. Consignees mail was sent free provided cargo was carried on the same boat.

The second part of the display consisted of the adhesive issues from 1852 to 1900. This portion was particularly rich in Die Proofs, Plate Proofs, blocks and covers of the early Britannia types. Amongst them was a fine imperf. block of the 6d orange-vermilion of 1873, 1d blue perf. 11-12 and a sheet of forgeries.

The complete range of the Barred numeral cancellations including some on cover, was shown as well as the Bootheels used (a) on the Britannia issues and (b) on the 1882 issue; these marks are particularly scarce on this issue.

Amongst the covers of this period was an Officer's letter of 1870 with the special concessionary rate of 6d which had just been introduced; covers showing the various TOO LATE markings; 1d blue SG.66 and SG.73 both bisected and used as ½d.; 1/- aniline violet (SG.82); 1882-86 1d. bisected and used as ½d. (SG.91a); HALF PENNY on 4d no hyphen variety SG.104a and finally a Soldiers letter sent to Birmingham at the concessionary rate of 1d.

Mr. M. Sheppard, who also collects Barbados, moved a very sincere vote of thanks to Mr. Benwell and all present acclaimed the display as being remarkably attractive and interesting.

## NOTES & QUERIES

### ANTIGUA

#### A "POSTMASTER/ANTIGUA" MARK

Through the courtesy of BWISC member Charles Cwiakala, I have acquired a cover from Antigua bearing a mark new to my experience. The item (Figure 1), evidently a rubber handstamp, incorporates the words POSTMASTER/ANTIGUA in sans serif capitals and within a rectangle measuring approximately 38mm by 13mm. The letters measure from 3 to 3½mm in height; the variation is apparently caused by ink spread. The cover on which this mark appears is a large manilla OHMS envelope, sent by registered mail to Chicago, Illinois, and postmarked at St. John's, Antigua, with a Birmingham-type c.d.s. dated MR 26 47. The registration handstamp of Figure 2 appears on the envelope. Figure 1 mark is struck in black once on the face of the cover and twice on the back.

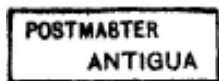


Figure 1

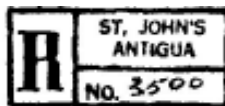


Figure 2

The question concerning this item which came immediately to my mind is: What was its purpose? The absence from the cover of one of the familiar oval GENERAL

POST OFFICE/(Crown)/ANTIGUA handstamps, which were primarily used to indicate the post-free status of the envelope, leads me to believe that the Figure 1 stamp may have been a temporary substitute for a normal oval mark. However, the mere words POSTMASTER ANTIGUA somehow do not adequately connote to me a feeling of “officiality”, as do the “ovals”.

Figure 1 appears to be a device more suited for the application by the Postmaster or his designee at the bottom of a report or letter, and above which his signature would be placed. Used in this manner the mark could be functionally grouped with certain similar handstamps, described by William G. Cornell in British Caribbean Philatelic Journal Whole number 44, as being available at the St. John’s GPO in February of 1968. These handstamps state “For Postmaster/Antigua” and “POST OFFICE” (Figures 3 and 4), and probably weren’t intended to be used on covers at all.

*For Postmaster  
Antigua*

Figure 3

POST OFFICE

Figure 4

Any comments concerning the purpose of this mark, and any reports of additional envelopes on which it appears, would be greatly appreciated.

*George W. Bowman*

## BRITISH WEST INDIES

### BWI STAMPS TO HUNT - AND WHY

There is no collector so pure that he does not delight to purchase from time to time, ahead of the market, stamps which are due for a meteoric rise. The following hints are offered to aspiring BWI collectors at large, but for the most part they deal with stamps in unbelievably short supply; and the few who are fortunate enough to take advantage of the information should sooner or later hear something to their advantage.

BAHAMAS is a very popular country and, strangely enough, many of its stamps are overpriced - none more so, than the Queen Victoria 2½d, in any shade, and the staircase 1d in any watermark. Sadly neglected, in contrast, are some of the War Tax issues, and one or two of these stamps used are a very good thing. Plainly the best set is the local overprint in serif capitals: the 1d King’s head, and the 3d value are easy to find; the ½d green certainly is not. As for the 1d staircase, thus overprinted, it was on sale for ten days only, and was preserved in large quantities unused; used at the right period it is very seldom seen, and should be bought whenever it can be found. The undoubted plum is the 1/- value, now catalogued at £25 used. Of all the regularly issued stamps of Bahamas, this was the lowest printing by far: there were only 20 sheets, 1200 stamps overprinted, and one fine day the price will go through the roof, if indeed this has not already happened by the time you read this in print.

My next choice is TOBAGO, a West Indian backwater, if such is to be found. No printing of any stamp was abundant, and use was as modest as was the demand. Lurking unnoticed amongst the low values is the ½d purple-brown, watermark CC: it is good mint, better still used, and best of all in a mint block of four. If you can find it. Almost any other stamp in this colony could be featured, but one of them cries out. This is the first of the surcharges, the 2½d on 6d stone, the forgotten man of the colony.

It is even lower in price used than mint, and even better thus. Once in every setting there crops up the elusive long-tailed 2; buy it whenever you can, and at any proportion of catalogue price. As a third 'sleeper' try the ½d on 4d used.

Another ½d stamp, and this time a more recent one. In November 1921 the ½d green was issued in VIRGIN I. in the Script CA watermark, and early the following year the entire series was replaced by the new design. This ½d stamp is plentiful in unused condition, because the Crown Agents received, and distributed, their supplies in September, two months before the stamp reached the colony at all; few people at present realise that, postally, the stamp was hardly ever used. Whenever you see it postmarked at the right period, buy it with confidence - and at any price. In the same colony the 5/- value of the same set is a very good property, used; but don't pay big money for the earlier stamp of Edward VII.

Dealing with the used 5/- values, you can hardly beat the first Edward VII stamp of ST. LUCIA, the green and carmine one. It was issued after speculators had exhausted themselves on the Queen Victoria 5/- and 10/- values (£3,000 worth in 1903 alone) and it had a short life, being quickly supplanted by the second stamp in universal colours. It is by much the better of the two values, and is even a good property unused.

In the same 5/- value do not miss the first issues of JAMAICA and TRINIDAD. These are both still quite modestly catalogued: the first is slightly better in fine used condition, and the second, mint. Sometimes it may be seen with SPECIMEN or with O S overprint. Beware of forgery, but do not let it go. In the luxury class (they are highly catalogued) see if you can find a JAMAICA 'pine' among the pence values which is unused, of fresh colour, and perfectly centred. Treat yourself: you will have one stamp that would deserve a place in the finest collections.

BRITISH HONDURAS moves at a leisurely pace, and probably always will. So this time go for a specialised item. In the 'REVENUE' stamps of 1899, the two sizes of overprint are found in separate parts of the same sheet. Once in a blue moon you will find the large and the small overprint side by side in a horizontal pair. Buy it when you see it; the price will be modest and you will own a howling rarity. Vertical pairs (the large size on top) are less unlikely and less attractive, yet you probably won't even see one of these.

DOMINICA too offers one specialised reward. The catalogued variety 'malformed CE' crops up once in every pane of 60 of the 4d stamp, in the bottom right hand corner. The blue shade is highly priced, yet fetches its money consistently; the still modestly priced grey shade is probably scarcer. Only 832 of the variety were ever printed in the first place. I wonder how many can still exist. If you see either with full corner margins, buy at almost any price.

Now for two 1/- values of very comparable standing. Each is a 'black on green', the BARBADOS small seal, watermark Script CA, and the CAYMAN ISLANDS Edward VII, watermark Crown CA. In each case, there was a single printing of 6,000 stamps, and in each case the quantity available suggests an even smaller printing than that. The Barbados stamp was said to have been absorbed rapidly by speculators, and I much prefer it used. The Cayman I. version is probably a better stamp mint. Each has risen steadily in catalogue value, and each should continue to do so for a long time to come.

ST. VINCENT has been fought over and bargained over for generations and the results show up in the very high prices of the early stamps. Since so much depends upon condition, buy with caution only; but if one stamp among the 'earlyies' is still underpriced, it is the 2½d on 4d of 1890, mint or used. Buy at best, but do not bother with the variety, no fraction bar. For the millionaire only, try the first 6d yellow-green, in unused condition, at whatever the going price. There are still more millionaires than there are 6d yellow greens for them to purchase, and the ratio of stamps to millionaires can only get worse. Failing that, try the ANTIGUA 6d. yellow-green, again in unused condition at the going rate. The shades are described in the same language, but do not expect the two stamps to look alike. Oh! and do not forget your certificate of authenticity in each case. Antigua also offers an interesting rarity in the 1d large seal on blued paper, a stamp which is tendered for sale much more often than it can actually be found; buy this stamp only when in used condition, looking healthy, and with a postmark for 1910. Then pounce. Otherwise leave it for the next customer along.

I hesitate to recommend anything in BERMUDA. This colony has suffered the attentions of speculators for almost as long as the memory of living men; and the high values from Geo.V onwards should be left severely alone. Among the earlier values, most stamps are now fully priced; and I like only the 2d blue in fine unused condition in either watermark. Buy it, if you can, in a block of four well-centred, your investment will see a steady return.

The stamps of LEEWARD IS. are plentiful in mint condition, and most are not too difficult used: so go for stamps of Geo. V and look for any with postmarks of BARBUDA or VIRGIN I. You can cheerfully pay double the catalogue price. And now to Geo.VI in the same colony: here you need stamps postmarked in DOMINICA, and never mind what you pay; just make sure that they were not used after 1939, when the colony left the Leeward group and ceased to be entitled to use their stamps.

Here is an exercise in aesthetics for the collector who wants to spend a fair amount of money selectively over a period. The attractive BRITISH GUIANA ship issues between 1860 and 1875 plod along in price and tend to lag behind the field, while in larger lots at auction they fetch a depressingly low proportion of catalogue price. The secret lies in the condition: if a collector sets out to collect these issues unused, well centred, of fresh colour, and with perforations intact, he need not mind if he pays virtually full catalogue price. He will need to reject 19 stamps in every 20 - at least - but if and when he comes to sell he can pick and choose his market, for he will have done what hardly anyone has done before.

I have asserted previously and now repeat that there is one ordinary stamp of ST. CHRISTOPHER which is rarer than a Guiana cotton-reel! This is the humble 2½d brown watermark CC in used condition; 1,460 were printed, and it is not particularly difficult mint; used in any state it is all but impossible to trace, whilst a copy of good colour, very fine used should be worth a three-figure sum to a real connoisseur.

A word next on varieties of NEVIS. It is worth-while reading up about the 'cross on hilt' and the re-touches on certain printings of the 1/- green and 1d brown-red, because there are many who cannot recognise them and there are copies still to be found at normal price. Each comes from a specific position in the attractive little sheets of 12 stamps, and in the case of the 1/- the variety occurs, unmentioned by the catalogue, in

F5, the Revenue stamp. Exactly 84 copies once went into circulation, and even now there are one or two about. Incidentally for the collector who wants a modest speciality at no immodest cost, the multiple printings of the still cheap 1d lithograph are very hard to beat.

Nothing stands out amongst the stamps of ST. KITTS-NEVIS, so let us talk about postmarks instead: start looking at the symbols or letters which may be seen on pre-war stamps of the present century, immediately under the name St. Kitts. If there is nothing, or a 'C', or an asterisk, pass on. If you see any other letters, buy; and when you have assembled half a dozen different examples, read it all up - you will be pleasantly surprised.

I can think of few medium priced catalogued varieties likely to be rarer than the GRENADA war tax variety reading TAX. Like the local overprint varieties of St. Lucia war tax, this one is liable to be forged; and genuine copies will probably come from philatelic sources, maybe in blocks of four. Swallow your pride and take one, for the chance may not come again. In the same country, but switching to the more mundane, I suggest that the 1913 MCA 2/- has been left behind in the general advance, and that it is not far behind the 5/- value for scarcity when used. There are interesting differences too, in shades and paper, though the catalogue does not at present deem them worthy of notice.

Similar considerations apply to the intermediate values of MONTSERRAT. In most cases the disparity between the price of the used 5/- values, and the two values immediately below, is far too great, and I should leave the top value alone and go for the other two, of all the top values, I like the 1907 5/- best, in mint condition only. It is far commoner used in any case, and unused copies are almost always off-centre, stained, or rubbed; the very occasional copy which sparkles is a gift at the normal price.

TURKS & CAICOS I. have a following all of their own, and sad to say, very large batches of even some of the rarest stamps have been held unused by speculators since the earliest times. By and large the best potential lies in fine used stamps, and of them all the 1909 Edward set and the 1921 Script set have the greatest appeal. In the former set, amongst the low values, the 2d blue used to be the front runner a generation ago, and it is the back marker today: I wonder which generation will prove to be right. Among the top values, the 1928 10/- probably has the furthest to go - fine used, of course.

Let us conclude with some general thoughts. Not nearly enough attention is paid when one is buying to the question of condition as a whole. Forget, with earlier stamps at any rate, the phrase 'unmounted mint': for the most part such stamps do not exist; in any case they may have been re-gummed; and more than that, paper may be fresher, cleaner, healthier, and have a longer life, when there is no gum on it at all: There are many stamps - and one gets to know them - where one's sights and standards have to be lowered, because no such thing as a really fine copy has survived. Leaving these aside, if you have a choice between a weaker and a stronger colour, between the stamp which is off-centre and one which is not, between a stamp with ragged perforations, and one whose perforations are clean, always be ready to pay a premium for the better stamp. If, though, the stamp is rare enough, take a copy in almost any state. It is sheer nonsense to say that if a stamp is damaged in some way it is worthless. Of course a crease, a thin, some discolouration, or pulled perforation, will detract from

the appearance and the value of the stamp; let these factors, in the case of a rarity, govern more the price that you are willing to pay, than whether you buy it at all. On the other hand, when going for stamps from the turn of the century onwards, as a matter of general policy, go for them used. Here you can afford to be selective: look for copies where either the postmark does not greatly affect the general appearance or where, by itself, it lends character to the stamp. Avoid like the plague a set where every value shows an identical postmark at the identical date, however fine the set may be; these have come off philatelic covers, as near cancelled-to-order as makes no odds. What you really want is a collection with character, and a character which is your own. Set yourself rules and stick to them. You will enjoy what you have all the more whilst you own it; and you will certainly reap the benefit when you come to sell.

*Simon Goldblatt*

## DOMINICA

I would appreciate guidance on the following cancellation, which I have reproduced freehand. It appears to be a temporary rubber datestamp, being a single circle of somewhat eccentric shape about 30mm in diameter, with an ill-aligned dateline. I have a strike on the reverse of an OHMS envelope, dated October 20 1916 from the GPO to Georgetown, Demerara. The adhesives, SG.51a and 55, are cancelled by 24.5mm "DOMINICA/GPO" circular datestamps of the same date, and the envelope bears a registration label pasted over the printed inscription "POST OFFICE/DOMINICA". The TRD on the reverse has the pencilled inscription "RARE" beside it - no doubt the work of some former, perhaps optimistic, owner. I have nine further strikes, all on loose stamps, all dated SEP 13 1916, and all from a single find. All ten strikes are in purple ink.



Can any serious student of Dominica offer information on the purpose and period of use of this datestamp, and on its scarcity?

*Michael Medlicott*

## GRENADA

1890 - 1d on 2/- Orange REVENUE Stamp.

I have a mint copy, o.g. of the 1d REVENUE stamp, identical to SG.44 - 1d POSTAGE and REVENUE on 2/- Orange Fiscal - with the exception that the word 'POSTAGE and' are missing.

Alfred Charlton makes some reference to this item in his book (pages 22/23) but also states that due to inexperienced labour there were many spoiled sheets, errors and imperfections. In view of the very few 1d REVENUE stamps (Type SG.44) that seem to exist I would suggest that on the above facts the word 'POSTAGE and' were omitted when the sheet was being overprinted, and the 1d REVENUE is a variety of SG.44. There are a large number of the Two Shillings Fiscal stamp around but very few seem to turn up of the 1d REVENUE. Although in 1890 there was a shortage of the One

Penny Postage stamp - was there a shortage of the One Penny Orange Fiscal? Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. prepared 36,000 in 1875, 72,000 in 1879 and 72,000 in 1881. Quantities sufficient for local needs.

Any information regarding this REVENUE stamp would be appreciated - are there any other values, pairs or blocks known?

*Bryan E. Johnson*

## ST LUCIA

### ST. LUCIA INVERTED WATERMARKS

The question of inverted watermarks on modern stamps is a controversial matter, as in many cases one must assume that they are merely a matter of chance without any philatelic significance. They do not seem to be attributable to any particular printer, and there is always the difficulty in being able to see the watermark anyway! However, I am endeavouring to determine which St. Lucia stamps occur in this state, and I appeal to members to let me know of any additions to the following list (the first type of 1860 is excluded). In some cases the watermark is sideways inverted (S):

1964	Definitives	1c, 2c, 4c,
1970	Definitives	4c, 25c, 35c (S)
1970	Red Cross	35c (S)
1971	Easter	10c, 15c, 40c
1971	Castries Views	50c (pair) (S)
1972	Morne	5c
1973	Bananas	35c
1973	Xmas	50c (S)

Although not related to the above, it is noticeable that in many recent issues of this territory (and presumably of others) the gum has obviously been tinted quite distinctly blue, presumably due to the difficulty with modern synthetic gums of telling the gummed side of the paper.

Finally, I should like to hear whether any collector has a copy of the QV 1d red postcard overprinted SPECIMEN. I suspect this item does not exist, although of course the 1d reply card does exist in this state.

*Geoffrey Ritchie*

## ST VINCENT

### ST. VINCENT MISCELLANY

Can any member give me the actual date of issue of the 1899 Keyplate 1d. value, SG.68. I have a copy of this stamp with a cancellation for 6.1.1899. If the cancellation date is correct it would only leave a period of 4 available days prior to this for issue to the public, the 1st of January being a Sunday.

According to the various references I have on the Village Post Offices, Biabou opened on 2.12.1872 and closed on 31.12.1887. The office did not re-open until 1.9.1954. I have in my collection of postmarks a copy of the 1899 ½d. value, SG.67 cancelled by a 20mm c.d.s., code 'A', dated 22.12.1900 and showing the office as "BIAIBOU". This mark is a complete mystery to me and I would welcome any information that confirms that the office was in fact open at this time or any other explanation of the strike.



I am at present compiling a list of the various Censor Hand-stamps and Labels in use during World War II. To date I have found that two different types of handstamp "PASSED BY CENSOR No." were in use, but various numbers are missing in the two types. I should be most grateful if members who have censored covers of this period would let me have details confirming my findings and perhaps adding to the list.

*Bruce Walker*

## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

### SG. 149c HALFPENNY BLUE GREEN ON THICK BLUE PAPER

Some time ago in a correspondence with a Trinidad collector colleague I mentioned to him that SG.149c Blue Green on thick blue paper was a most difficult stamp to find and that my copies had taken several years to locate.

The little information I have that may establish the story behind this stamp is as follows:

1912 saw the Trinidad Postal Authorities make their first requisition through the Crown Agents for the supply and printing of the continued Britannic type now inscribed Trinidad and Tobago.

From an examination of the C.A. requisitions it is clear that De la Rue were generally making available to the C.A. Inspector the requested total printed stamps in twelve weeks from instructions to proceed.

Parcels of stamps appear to have been fifty sheets per packet (6,000). From the basic stamps consignments when estimating use, consideration has been given to those overprinted for Official and War Tax purposes and all indications are that both consignments and overprints have always been made in multiples of the packet I describe.

For simplicity I have rounded the C.A. requisition to the nearest whole packet and in those instances when the requisition is not divisible by 6,000 the difference will be seen to be negligible.

Based on my notes the Halfpenny use is estimated as Table 1.

Table 1

C.A. DATE	REQUISITIONS STAMPS	PKTS	EST. PACKETS OPT. OFFICIAL	EST. PACKETS OVPT. WAR TAX	BASIC STAMPS BALANCE
4.6.12	650,000	109	20 (SG.011)	—	89) Thin paper
27.6.13	600,000	100	20 (SG.012)	—	80) Green shades
10.5.14	288,000	48	20 (SG.013)	—	28) " "
21.1.15	600,000	100	—	—	100) " "
1.12.15	603,960	101	20 (SG.014)	—	81) " "
13.10.16	1,207,820	201	20 (SG.013)	—	Thick paper
			20 (SG.017)	40 (SG. 177)	Blue Green
				40 (SG.179)	
				40 (SG.181)	
				40 (SG.183)	1
19.12.16	1,207,820	201	—		
<u>FEB. 1918 SUPPLY</u>		25	—	20 (SG.187)	5 Thick Bluish
<u>MAR. 1918 BALANCE</u>		176	—	20 (SG.187)	156 Thin paper -
17.9.18	2,000,000	334	—	—	334 Blue Green
31.10.19	2,000,000	334	—	—	334
31.12.20	1,000,000	167	—	—	167

On each of the occasions basic stamps have been overprinted for Official purposes I have estimated 120,000 stamps. I do not have adequate information to confirm the actual quantities but my experience of the stone multiples use and the circumstances resulting in the Postal Authorities plight at the end of 1917 would indicate that my figures are probably realistic.

The War Tax overprints are on the basis of 240,000 stamps each style irrespective from which consignment the basic stamps came, my objective being to show an estimated basic stamp balance of the Halfpenny value at the end of 1917. The circumstances are confirmed in the contents of the C.A. requisition dated 19th Dec. 1917, included is the following request: "you will note from the telegram that the ½d and 6d postage stamps are most urgently required". The following day De la Rue replied: "Delivery to your Inspector of the 6d stamps and a supply of the ½d in six weeks".

It is my estimate that the ½d supply mentioned may have been twenty five packets. Possibly twenty packets were overprinted War Tax during Feb. 1918 and that at most five packets of basic stamps were released for use during March 1918. Examination of the 1918 Halfpenny stamps overprinted War Tax shows two very distinct papers, that is the thick bluish paper and a thin paper. It is my thought that the latter was a further War Tax printing released at the end of March and that these stamps were from the differing paper of the completed consignment of the Dec. requisition.

It would appear that if the circumstances I describe are correct SG.149c not only had a very short life as a basic stamp but as I have found, copies would seem to be very scarce. Possibly the quantities I estimate are optimistic. I would certainly be interested to hear of other member's experiences or of any further information that will satisfy the unusual circumstances surrounding this stamps consignment introduction.

Acknowledgements: S.G. Postage Stamp Catalogue 1940 Edition. The GPO De la Rue Archive. The kind assistance of Vincent Duggleby.

*John de Vries*

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SG.149c. Correction.

Further information brought to my attention now authenticates the quantities of the 1917 Halfpenny values overprinted War Tax.

SG. 177	20 packets
SG. 179	9
SG. 181	20
SD. 183	20

The British Guiana Philatelic Journal published the quantities issued, this information having been obtained directly from the Postmaster General.

It will now be appreciated that these quantities show an estimated basic stamp balance of ninety two packets for 1917.

But as will be seen from previous years usage it is implied that the ninety two packets would have been exhausted as a result of normal annual usage and arrive at the December 1917 plight I describe.

Acknowledgement: The Stamp Collector 1918 Volume.

*John de Vries*

# TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS (Continued from page 17, Bulletin No.92)

## PART 2 - THE CANCELLATIONS (Continued)

### COCKBURN HARBOUR



Type C1. The first circular datestamp that can be associated specifically with Cockburn Harbour was the Grand Turk type 3a with the index letter changed to a 'B'. It is assumed to have been introduced in 1923 with the Opening of the sub Post Office there. The mark appears in bluish grey or greyish black until at least 1929, thereafter in black.

EKD: JA 15 25 (On a registered letter marked with a return address of Bottle Creek, North Caicos).

LKD: AU 23 32



Type C1a. In this type the index letter has been changed to a 'C'.

EKD: FE 4 36

LKD: MR 3 37



Type C2. By at least 1938 Cockburn Harbour was using its own double circle datestamp with inscription COCKBURN HARBOUR/TURKS ISLANDS, the names being separated by short thick bars. The Index letter 'C' is used above the date. The mark is usually in black but it has been noted (Au 16 48) in violet. Another example has been reported with the 'C' inverted and the year of the date omitted

EKD: DE 21 38

LKD: NO 17 53

Type C3. Similar to type 8 of Grand Turk, the current datestamp for Cockburn Harbour has the two parts of the name separated by a thin curved line on each side. The date is usually in the changed format of Day/Month/Year, but not always so.

EKD: 4 OC 54

LKD: Still in use (1976)

### SALT CAY



Type SC1. Salt Cay received its first distinctive datestamp in 1923. It is a double circle similar to the Cockburn Harbour Type C2, but inscribed SALT CAY across the top, and consequently the thick black bars are longer. The letter 'A' is used for the index letter above the date.

EKD: SE 30 23

LKD: MY 12 37



Type SC1a. In this type the index letter has been changed to a 'B'. There are several recorded examples of this datestamp, all dated AP 5 49, in which the 'B' is sideways reading upwards.

EKD: MY 13 37

LKD: AP 5 49



Type SC2. The current Salt Cay datestamp was introduced in 1950. The words SALT CAY and TURKS ISLANDS are separated by thin curved lines, as is the case with those in use at both Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour. The index letter 'B' appears above the date. One example, dated 30 JU 51, has been reported with an inverted 'C' above the date.

EKD:

LKD: Still in use (1976)

### BLUE HILLS (PROVIDENCIALES)



Type BH1. With the possible exception of the Rural Post marking mentioned in Part IV, all mail posted at the Postal Agency at Blue Hills was cancelled at the Post Office at Grand Turk until about late 1974. At this time with the opening of a new Post Office came the issue of a distinctive canceller. It is double circle of diameter 16/27mm inscribed with the name BLUE HILLS and CAICOS ISLANDS separated by thin curved lines at each side. There is no index letter but rather an asterisk is used above the date.

EKD: JU 5 75 (But believed to be late 1974)

LKD: Still in use (1976)

### OFFICIAL

Type O1. Initially the Official Paid mark consisted of a boxed rectangular mark just under 43mm x 18mm wide. It was inscribed in serif capitals POSTAGE PAID in two lines.

EKD: AP 4 24

LKD:



Type O2. The type O2 marking is a single circle datestamp of diameter 31½mm with TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS (the first mention of the Caicos Islands) around the top and OFFICIAL PAID at the bottom. Above the date there is an asterisk. Strikes of this type are known in both red and black.

EKB: AP 19 28 (in red)

LKB: OC 13 44 (in black)



Type O2a. In this type which is similar to type O2 the style of dating has been changed to the format Day/Month/Year and the asterisk has been omitted.

EKB:

LKD: 27 MR 53



Type O3. In type O3 the single ring is reduced in size to a diameter of 24mm, with TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS around the top and OFFICIAL PAID at the bottom. There is an asterisk above the date.

EKD: SP 25 23

LKD: AU 21 69



Type O4. Later official mails - originating from at least the Post Office - do not bear the "Official Paid" cancellation, but rather the current type 9a datestamp of Grand Turk except that the index letter 'A' has been replaced by an asterisk.

EKD:

LKD:

## FIRST DAY CANCELLATIONS



Type FD1. Originally any special covers for the first day of issue were serviced only with the normal current datestamp. However, by at least 1972, a special single ring datestamp 25mm in diameter was in use for this purpose. The words FIRST DAY OF ISSUE are inscribed around the top while horizontally across the bottom is TURKS &/ CAICOS ISLANDS in two lines. The date is central and in a single line in the form 20 Nov 1972 (Year in full).

EKD: 20 NOV 1972

LKD: Still in use (1976)



Type FD2. A special commemorative first day postmark was used on covers for the 1967 Stamp Centenary issue. It is in the form of a large single ring 38mm in diameter, with TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS/STAMP CENTENARY around the top and bottom. Separating the two parts of the inscription the dates 1867 and 1967 appear horizontally. In the top centre is a sailing vessel similar to that appearing in the 1900 definitive issue. The date 1 May 1967 is underneath in two lines.

Correction: On page 17, Bulletin No. 92, the reference alongside Type 8a should be to type 8, not 9 of course since there is no type 9.

*Mike Wilson*

*Since we published the first installment of Part 2 - The cancellations we have news of a new ERD for Type 4. Mr. F.D. Fitzgerald tells us that he has a registered O.H.M.S. cover with a strike of this cancellation for March 24 23.*

*Editor*

## VIRGIN ISLANDS

In his article on the "GEORGE V ½d. GREEN SG.80 (USED) A RARITY?", Simon Goldblatt asked if members could give evidence of dated postmarks of this stamp and the later ½d. stamps, SG 86.

Richard Heap has a copy of SG.80 with a very indistinct Tortola, November postmark with day and year off the stamp, but presumably 1921. Frederick Fitz-Gerald offers information that could lead to a re-appraisal, he has a pair of the 1921 SCA with a West End c.d.s. for JU 9 21 and a single dated JU 18 23 Also in his possession is a copy of SG 86, the 1922 MCA with a West End c.d.s. for 11 DE ?1 *Editor*

## NEWS ROUNDUP

John Willem writes that he is deeply engaged in indexing and cataloguing all Tudway correspondence from Antigua known to be in various private hands. Last summer John and his wife spent several weeks in Taunton, Somerset, where much Tudway correspondence, estate records etc., can be found in the Archives. John is also tracing the history of the 'find' which in many ways will prove larger and more valuable than the Codrington Correspondence.

1980 and the next British International Exhibition as yet still seems a long way off, but it is never too early to start thinking ahead. The B.C.P.S.G. have done just that and if plans now being formulated come to fruition the Group will be holding their major annual meeting in London to coincide with the International. A date for your forward diary:

New member Michael Romano, on holiday in Trinidad, has picked up an updated listing of all local post offices and postal agencies from the Postmaster's office. Perhaps interested members may wish to compare notes. Mike hopes to get back to Trinidad in April to hear John Marriott speak to the Trinidad Philatelic Society at their exhibition in Port of Spain.

At this year's Stampex the B.C.P.S.G. Silver Medal was awarded to Mr. C. Latto for an exhibit of St. Lucia. Study Circle members gaining awards were Bryan Johnson, Silver Medal and Bronze Medal and Comdr. Bill Collins, two Bronze Medals.

Study Circle members have been out in force in recent months giving displays to other societies. Although these displays have not always been confined to Caribbean countries it is nice to see so many members taking an active part in philately. Members who have been out and about include P.F.G. Johnstone, John de Vries, Geoff Ritchie, Derek Sutcliffe, D. Ledger, Tony Shepherd, Basil Benwell, Tony Reesby and Mike Sheppard.

The recent H.R. Harmer Ltd., British Commonwealth sale brought on to the market a fine array of British West Indies material, with outstanding collections of Montserrat and Jamaica. More superb West Indies classics were offered at Drury House on the 21st April, when Stanley Gibbons Auctions Ltd., offered many gems from the late Claude Cartier collection. Collectors of Barbados and Trinidad will have their chance when Robson Lowe Ltd., on the 22nd June, offer for sale a fine collection of these countries formed by Herbert Shilstone, until recently a member of the Study Circle, and the B.C.P.S.G.

*Michael Sheppard*

## AUCTION REPORT

Realisations at the fourth annual Auction held after the A.C.M. on 16th April were as follows:-

Lot	1	£2.25	Lot	52	£ 9.00	Lot	105	£ 7.50	Lot	154	£ 2.75
	2	14.00		54	13.00		106	6.50		155	5.75
	3	4.50		55	5.50		107	2.50		156	8.00
	4	25.00		57	6.00		108	8.00		157	18.00
	5	8.00		58	8.50		109	3.00		158	6.50
	6	13.00		59	13.00		110	4.00		159	4.50
	7	4.00		60	6.00		111	11.00		160	7.00
	8	4.50		61	8.50		112	3.50		161	1.25
	9	2.50		62	1.75		113	5.50		162	10.00
	10	13.00		63	10.50		114	2.00		163	15.50
	11	1.25		64	1.25		115	3.00		164	4.00
	12	1.50		65	3.00		116	6.00		165	12.50
	13	8.00		66	33.00		117	9.50		166	5.50
	14	3.00		68	7.00		119	6.00		167	7.00
	15	5.00		69	6.00		120	2.50		168	6.00
	16	6.50		70	3.00		121	3.25		169	6.00
	17	8.50		71	7.00		122	4.00		170	6.00
	18	15.00		74	5.00		123	11.00		171	7.00
	19	7.50		75	3.00		124	4.00		172	30.00
	20	13.00		77	8.00		125	21.00		173	26.00
	21	9.50		78	2.50		126	3.50		174	7.50
	23	5.25		80	7.00		127	2.75		175	1.50
	24	1.00		81	1.50		128	23.00		176	2.50
	25	7.00		82	10.50		129	13.00		180	8.00
	27	1.50		83	13.50		130	13.00		182	11.00
	28	6.00		86	3.75		132	7.50		X1	4.50
	29	5.50		88	18.00		133	3.00		186	6.00
	30	6.00		89	3.50		134	3.00		187	23.00
	31	5.50		90	2.50		137	18.00		188	2.50
	32	7.00		91	4.00		138	9.00		189	16.50
	33	8.00		92	16.00		139	3.50		190	36.00
	34	2.50		93	11.50		141	2.75		191	21.00
	35	15.00		94	5.25		142	21.00		192	15.00
	36	19.00		95	6.50		143	1.50		195	12.50
	37	6.00		96	5.25		144	2.50		196	5.25
	41	18.50		97	11.50		146	16.00		X3	11.00
	45	32.00		98	3.75		148	20.00		X4	4.50
	46	22.00		99	10.00		148A	25.00		X5	3.25
	47	7.50		100	12.00		149	16.00		197	5.25
	48	6.00		101	5.50		150	5.50		198	1.75
	49	6.50		102	5.75		151	15.50		199	4.50
	50	5.25		103	13.00		152	9.50		200	12.00
	51	6.50		104	19.00		153	3.75			

Sale Total £1493.00

Lots 22, 26, 53, 56, 67, 72, 73, 76, 79 84, 85, 87, 135, 136, 140, 145, 147, 177, 178, 179, 181, 183, 184, 185, 193, 194 and X2 were unsold; lots: 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44 and 131 were withdrawn. The last of these was queried at the View by an eagle-eyed Committee member and on further scrutiny by the Sub-Committee was adjudged to be a forged surcharge; though 'provisionally' knocked down at £36 the owner took the decision in good part - he had other compensations, he assured us.

Of the lots which did sell - over 85% of those on offer - 132 went to bidders on the 'book' and 39 to those in the room, who paid about £375 between them for their prizes.

This tale of keen competition had a quiet overture: Anguilla, Antigua and Bahamas were sold with hardly a murmur from the room, and it began to look as though postal

bidders would have things sit their own way. Not so. A keen contest took place for lot 41 (which some catalogue readers might, forgivably, have thought to be withdrawn) and it was finally taken at the respectable price of £18.50. Even keener was the battle for the 'boot-heels', the next lot; an eager bidder chased it up to £32, and then dropped out. Who knows whether one bid more would have beaten the 'book'? The auctioneer wasn't telling.

After this the tempo altered and there was fighting for almost every other lot. Many of the prices tell their own story: £33 for the fine Demerara 'horse-shoe'; £15.50 for 'Roaring Creek'; £18 for 'Wesley'; £21 for 'Paid at Nevis'; £15.50 for 'Mesopotamia'; £23 for 'East End'; £26 for 'T 25'; and £30 for that delightful Trinidad forwarded cover, whose new owner may have got the bargain of the sale. There was significance, too, among the lesser-priced items; lots 47, 165 and 94 each fetched over catalogue quotation, the last of these barely rated by the seller when he sent his property for sale. Postal stationery, over-stamped Specimen, sold strongly, with Reply cards easily beating their single-sided relatives; and postcards were in keen demand: Llandoverly Falls (understandably) reached £8; the fleet at Basseterre, £3; and eruption on St. Vincent, £6.50 for two cards. The £0.90 average cost of each unused picture postcard on offer plainly shows the trend of things to come. Meanwhile Circle funds were swollen by £5.25, through the kind gesture of Rose Saunders in donating lot 197.

Most notable of all was the demand for the early newspapers and periodicals. The leading postal bidders must have felt confident of success, but it wasn't to be: in a stern campaign Mr. 'B.3' carried Anguilla, Grenada, St. Lucia, and all before him, almost reflecting, as it seemed, the very dust and trauma of the historical battles which his purchases recorded.

A few uncatalogued items were offered at the sale: lots X1, X2, Turks & Caicos covers; lots X3, X4 and X5, album covers and leaves. There are usually some titbits available for those who take the trouble to come; waverers (and Warwick conventioners) please note.

We count an auction a success where comparatively few sellers have lots returned, or sold at a price which is too low, and where most of the successful postal bidders secure their lots at below their maximum bid. Judged by these standards, 1977 was a good vintage year. Only 40 lots were sold at the maximum figure on the 'book' and one third of these sold on the 'tie-break' to the first-recorded of two even bids. One was a tie between three.

We (just) coped with the 'limit' bids which were submitted, and hope to offer the same facility in future years. Less easy to handle were a handful of 'buy' bids, which we (like most auctioneers) prefer not to receive, and feel obliged to interpret, at discretion: for what does the auctioneer do, who receives two 'buy' bids on a single lot? We shall sell our first £100 lot one fine day, but not because two members collide on paper in the manner just described!

One gentle apology must be tendered - the Editor's overworked typing fingers are blushing to their roots - for the poor quality of the last page of the auction catalogue. We think this may have contributed to the failure of some later lots to sell and the nominal charge on unsold lots was waived on items affected. We are conscious of our faults and hope to avoid repeating them. At the same time we want to express the gratitude of the Circle to those who have consistently provided work and have



volunteered material to enable the circle to be prepared and the catalogue produced without cost to the Circle itself, A hearty vote of thanks was accorded at the end of the sale to the auctioneer, the Sub-Committee, and their various helpers; and there are many, without whose efforts and goodwill, the Auction would not be the success it has become.

#### NEW MEMBERS

CALVERT, William Henry, M.C., Dess House, Dess, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, AB3 5BA.

FLETCHER, John Edwin, 24 Milverton Rd., Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands, B93 OHY.

Interest: Grenada, Jamaica, Tobago, Trinidad, Trinidad & Tobago.

MARTIN, L.W. Jnr., P.O. Box 1061, Bellaire, Texas 77401, U.S.A.

PETRIE, Bruce, 68, Grange Rd., Eldwick, Bingley, Yorkshire

Interest: Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent.

WARD, Timothy Derek, 209, Mill Rd., Cambridge, CB1 3AN.

Interest: Jamaica

#### DECEASED MEMBER

MOORCROFT, John G.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

ARNELL, Dr. J.C., P.O.Box 1263, Hamilton 5, Bermuda.

BARTLETT, G.C., 7, Princess Rd., Branksome, Poole, Dorset.

BELCHER, S.J., 103 Willems Park, Aldershot, Hants.

WARREN, Ltc. Dan C., 12303, Starling Lane, Laurel, MD.20811, USA

WIKE, Ronald G., c/o 76, Campbell Drive, Liverpool, Merseyside LT14 7QQ.

WILLEM, J.M., 1, Toms Point Lane, Building 5, Apt. 10-B, Port Washington, New York 11050, U.S.A.

WOODWARD, R.G., 4, Gillots Close, Henley on Thames, Oxon, RG9 1PY

#### RESIGNED

MURRAY, Col. A.; HAWKINS, P.J

The following members have not paid their subscriptions for 1976 and are therefore dropped from membership:

ADAMS, D.A.: BRODERICK, Miss H.: EGLIN, E.W.: ROBERTSON, R.H.:

RUSSON, R.M.: SHIPP, P.J.: SHRINE, R.G.: WILSON, A.C.

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